

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 to 10 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/003198 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Test device—(1), especially to test the penetration characteristics of a sterilization agent with a detector-volume-(24) designed to house an indicator (26)-connected to a sterilization chamber via a gas-collection-volume-(4) characterized in that the gas-collection-volume being multi-stage-designed so that both cross section and volume of each stage (12, 14, 16)-decrease between neighboring volumes (12, 14, 16)-towards the direction of the detector volume.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Test device (1)-according to claim 1, where the cross section between neighbouring volumes (12, 14, 16)-decreases towards the direction of the detector volume (24) by a minimum of 50%, better more than 75%.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Test device (1) according to claim 1-or-2, where the cross section of the gas-collection-volume (4)-directly adjacent to the detector volume (24)-is ca. 1 to 200 mm².

Claim 4 (currently amended): Test device (1)-according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, where the gas-collection-volume (4)-directly adjacent to the detector volume (24)-has a channel length of minimum 10 cm, better ca. 30 to 100 cm.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Test device-(1) according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, where one stage (14)-of the gas-collection-volume (4)-is arranged within another stage (16)-of the gas-collection-volume-(4).

Claim 6 (currently amended): Test device ~~(1)~~ according to claim 5, where the next stage ~~(16)~~ of the gas-collection-volume ~~(4)~~ is formed by an outside case ~~(30)~~ enclosing the first stage ~~(14)~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Test device ~~(1)~~ according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, where one stage ~~(14)~~ of the gas-collection-volume ~~(4)~~ is built around an outside case ~~(30)~~ which forms another stage ~~(16)~~ of the gas-collection-volume ~~(4)~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Test device ~~(1)~~ according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, where at least one stage ~~(14, 16)~~ of the gas-collection-volume ~~(4)~~ is filled with porous material ~~(34)~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Test device ~~(1)~~ according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, where the detector volume ~~(24)~~ is selected to be smaller than 500 µl.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Test device ~~(1)~~ according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, where a chemical or biological indicator is used as an indicator ~~(26)~~.